

What is claimed is:

1. A topical composition for protecting human skin from collagen degradation, comprising a compound selective for the inhibition of at least one of MMP-1, MMP-8, and MMP-13 with respect to MMP-9 and optionally MMP-2, and a dermatologically suitable carrier therefor.

2. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a retinoid.

3. The composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one of a UVA blocker and a UVB blocker.

4. The composition of claim 3, comprising both a UVA blocker and a UVB blocker.

5. The composition of claim 4, further comprising a retinoid.

6. The composition of claim 1, further comprising an antioxidant.

7. The composition of claim 6, further comprising both a UVA blocker and a UVB blocker.

8. A method for restoring collagen and fibroblast proliferation in chronologically aged skin, comprising topically apply a compound selective for the inhibition of at least one of MMP-1, MMP-8, and MMP-13 with respect to MMP-9 and optionally MMP-2, and a dermatologically suitable carrier therefor.

1 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising topically applying to the skin a
2 retinoid.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the application is made daily.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the application is made daily.

1 12. A method for preventing collagen degradation and improving procollagen
2 biosynthesis inhibition in human skin due to exposure of said skin to UV radiation,
3 comprising topically applying a compound selective for the inhibition of at least one of
4 MMP-1, MMP-8, and MMP-13 with respect to MMP-9 and optionally MMP-2, and a
5 dermatologically suitable carrier therefor, between 24 hours prior to said exposure to twelve
6 hours after said exposure.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the application is prior to UV exposure, and
2 further comprising apply a combination of UVA and UVB blockers.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the application is prior to UV exposure, and
2 further comprising applying an EGF-R protein tyrosine kinase inhibitor.

1 15. A method for treating acne, comprising topically applying a compound
2 selective for the inhibition of at least one of MMP-1, MMP-8, and MMP-13 with respect to
3 MMP-9 and optionally MMP-2, and a dermatologically suitable carrier therefor.